Tess Perry

EDU 221

Essential Belief Statement

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1. I have always loved school, loved classes, and loved learning. It was not until I was out of school that I realized how short of time a person is in school and how I would miss being out of a classroom. I had graduated from undergraduate school, taken a stab at graduate school and started working full time when I realized I needed to go back. I attribute my love of school to all the wonderful teachers I had throughout all my school years. I cannot pick a favorite one because I have many, but they all share one commonality; they were (and I am sure still are) passionate about their subject area and passionate about my leaning.

2. I have chosen my concentration, health, mainly because I already have a degree in community health. I chose this as my major in undergraduate because I am, always have been and always will be, an athlete. I love feeling strong, powerful and confident which I have now come to equate with being healthy both mentally and physically. I absolutely love learning and exploring all areas of health; physical, mental, emotional, social, environmental, financial, the list goes on and on! That is another aspect about the subject of the health that compels me to teach it, there is so much too health that everyone can find something interesting and engaging about it!

3. I know I learn by memorization through repetition, I also know not everyone does. I think determining tricks to help remember something can be an important life skill, so by helping others develop memorization methods will help them in other classes and beyond school. I am an interpersonal learner so I enjoy discussing concepts, opinions and thoughts. There will definitely be discussions in my classroom. Since everyone is different and has different learning styles my challenge as a teacher will be to engage other types of learners and to challenge learners to try new things, new ideas and alternatives types of thinking. When I was a middle and high school student I was very resistant to changes (I love a good old fashion lecture), as I have evolved as a person I have come to accept challenges and now think of them as a new opportunity to grow. Trying different teaching styles will be an excellent way to challenge myself and to grow as a person.

4. I have one main expectation regarding teaching: to expect the unexpected. I envision everyday will bring new and different challenges and obstacles. Each class I teach will be diverse and will be full of opportunities. I expect to learn more about myself and about the students each year. The change and variation excites me! I also am nervous; it is the unknown that I cannot plan and prepare for. My biggest fear is of classroom management and gaining respect of the students. I am unsure how to tackle this aspect of teaching and I have heard from many seasoned teachers that classroom management is a major portion of being a successful teacher.

5. From this course I expect to learn how to get from point A to point B. How to ensure students learn and understand the big concept, the standard, I will be attempting to teach them. I expect to learn how to build a unit and how to create all the individual lessons within that unit. I want to know how to take an idea and put into small steps in an engaging lesson. I expect to learn how to appropriately assess the students to see if they comprehend what I taught them or attempted to teach them.